

Appln No. 10/623,528. Filed 07/22/2003 Response to Office Action of 11/22/2005

Listing of claims

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently amended) An orthodontic device for use with orthodontic arch wires comprising:

a device body having labial, lingual, gingival, occlusal, mesial and distal surface portions, the body having therein a mesial-distal extending arch wire receiving slot having one mesial distal extending side open to a device body surface portion to permit insertion of an arch wire into the slot and its removal therefrom;

a pivot member mounted by the device body and establishing a mesial-distal extending pivot axis; and

a shutter member mounted by the pivot member for pivoting movement about the pivot axis between a slot open position in which the open slot side is open, and a slot closed position in which the shutter member closes the open slot side to retain an arch wire in the slot;

wherein the shutter member comprises:

a pivot portion mounted by the pivot member for the pivoting movement of the shutter member; and

a slot closure portion movable with the pivot portion, extending mesially distally with respect to the device body, and in the slot closure position closing the slot open side; and

an attitude controlling spring member constituted by a flexible end extension portion of the slot closure portion further from the pivot portion, wherein that with the shutter member in slot closed position has a free end portion of the spring member extends into the arch wire receiving slot for engagement in a mesial-distal extending plane with an arch wire in the slot, such engagement urging the arch wire into engagement with the respective slot walls.

25. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, wherein in the slot closed position ~~the flexible~~ a flexible portion of the slot closure portion is positively engaged with a surface of the device body ~~so as~~ so as to preload the flexible portion and urge the free end portion toward engagement with an arch wire in the arch wire slot.

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engaged with a surface of the device body ~~so as~~ so as to preload the flexible portion and
urge the free end portion toward engagement with an arch wire in the arch wire slot.

26. (Currently amended) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the
flexible a flexible portion of the slot closure portion is of recurved cross section in an
occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual plane, and in slot closed position is engaged by lateral
walls of the device body parallel to the last-mentioned plane to protect it against mesial or
5 distal directed stresses applied thereto.

27. (Original) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 24, and including latch means
having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot
member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain
the shutter member in that position.

28. (New) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 25, wherein a flexible portion of the
slot closure portion is of recurved cross section in an occlusal, gingival, labial, lingual
plane, and in slot closed position is engaged by lateral walls of the device body parallel to
the last-mentioned plane to protect it against mesial or distal directed stresses applied
thereto.

29. (New) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 25, and including latch means
having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot
member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain
the shutter member in that position.

30. (New) An orthodontic device as claimed in claim 26, and including latch means
having latch members cooperating with one another and operative between the pivot
member and the pivot portion when the shutter member is in slot closed position to retain
the shutter member in that position.